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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

[*Unsigned notes are by the editor*]

Readers of MYCOLOGIA are invited to contribute to this department personal news items and notes or brief articles of interest to mycologists in general. Manuscripts should be submitted before the middle of the month preceding the month in which this publication is issued.

Dr. R. A. Jehle, formerly extension plant pathologist for the North Carolina State College of Agriculture, has accepted a similar position with the College of Agriculture of the University of Maryland, succeeding Prof. C. E. Temple, who has become professor of plant pathology in the University of Maryland.

Mr. M. A. Carleton, formerly in charge of the Office of Cereal Investigations, United States Department of Agriculture, and recently plant pathologist for the United States Grain Corporation, is now employed as plant pathologist for the United Fruit Company, with headquarters at Bocas del Toro, Panama.

Mr. R. W. Goss, formerly assistant pathologist in cereal disease investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, with headquarters at Madison, Wisconsin, has become assistant plant pathologist at the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, where he will take up the study of the potato *Fusarium* problems of that region.

Dr. O. F. Burger, formerly pathologist at the California Agricultural Experiment Station, Riverside, and recently engaged in the investigation of fruit and truck crop diseases in the United States Bureau of Plant Industry, has become head pathologist at the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville. He will give special attention to the study of transportation diseases of truck and citrus crops.

Miss Wakefield, the well-known mycologist of Kew Gardens, England, arrived in New York on March 10, after spending the winter collecting in the British West Indies. On March 19, she left for a tour through parts of the eastern United States, and sailed for England on May 14. Her chief interest at the Garden was the large collection of polypores from the American tropics.

Nodule bacteria of leguminous plants form the subject of an article by Löhnis and Hansen in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for January 3, 1921. *Bacillus radicicola* and *B. radiobacter* are the species chiefly discussed, the latter being easily distinguished from the former by its brown growth on potato.

A descriptive list of Brazilian gill-fungi, by J. Rick, appeared in *Broteria* **18**: 48–63. 1920. Of the 106 species treated, a number are proposed as new in various genera, but the author feels that many of the new ones are identical with European species!

Sclerotinia minor is the cause of a decay in lettuce, celery, and other crops, according to Ivan C. Jagger, who published an account of this new fungus in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for November 15, 1920. The species is known from Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

A specimen of *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* (Jacq.) P. Karst. has recently been received from George L. Zundel, who collected it March 9, 1921, on birch, at Arden, Stevens County, Washington. Although reported by Harkness as occurring on oak in California, this is the first time I have seen this species from the Pacific coast.

A list of the fungi of the Malay Peninsula, compiled by J. F. Chipp, appeared in the *Gardens Bulletin, Straits Settlements* for January, 1921. The list is prefaced by remarks on our knowledge of Malayan fungi and the preservation of fungous specimens in the tropics. Following it is a bibliography, and an index to fungi found on the Malay Peninsula and to their hosts.

The way in which smut infects sugar-cane was described by Dastur in the *Annals of Botany* for July, 1920. It occurs only in young buds and not through the cut ends of setts. The sporidia on germinating penetrate the young, thin-walled scale hairs, and within two months a bud thus infected may produce a spore-bearing shoot. Diseased sets will, of course, grow into diseased shoots when planted.

The mildness of the winter season around Fayetteville, Arkansas, has brought forth some unseasonable growths both among the seed- and the spore-bearing plants. It may be of interest to note that *Pluteus cervinus* Fr., a common mushroom of this region, usually found from May until October, was collected on February 8. A number of good-sized, fresh specimens were obtained, some of the pilei measuring 10 centimeters in diameter. The spores appeared normal in size, shape, and color.—H. R. ROSEN.

Cranberry diseases and their control are discussed in a popular way by C. L. Shear in *Farmers' Bulletin* 1081 of the United States Department of Agriculture. Of the dozen or more diseases included, "early-rot," caused by *Guignardia Vaccinii* Shear, heads the list for destructiveness. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture will control most of these diseases, while large losses due to smothering can be avoided by proper methods and conditions of picking, storing, and handling the fruit.

Notes on the Thelephoraceae of North Carolina, by W. C. Coker, in the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* for February, 1921, comprise 51 pages of descriptive matter and 22 handsome plates made from photographs and drawings. *Aleurodiscus macrodens* is described as new. This paper, although dealing only with Carolina species, is an excellent introduction to the family for students in any part of the country.

Some observations on the life-history of *Nectria galligena* Bres., by Dorothy M. Cayley, appeared in the *Annals of Botany* for January, 1921. This fungus will complete its life-history on media containing starch or a derivative of starch with 1 per cent glycerin. Besides the three known forms of spores, the author discovers a fourth form, a two-celled multinucleate spore. No conclusive evidence was found of the occurrence of pycnidia in the life-history of this species.

Fomes geotropus, a large polypore found frequently at the base of living trunks of various trees in the Gulf states and many parts of tropical America, causing serious decay, has often been confused with *Fomes ulmarius,* which it *greatly* resembles. Having studied the two species carefully in the field, I must consider them of different origin and distribution so far as the present era of the earth's history is concerned. Let those who regard them identical explain why *F. ulmarius* is common on elm trees in England, for example, and never found on similar trees in the United States north of the Gulf region.

The *Torrey Bulletin* for January, 1921, contains two important articles on fungi; the first by H. E. Thomas on "The relation of the health of the host and other factors to infection of *Apium graveolens* by *Septoria Apii,*" and the second by Prof. Arthur on "New species of Uredineae." The latter contains descriptions of two new genera, *Lipospora* Arthur and *Teleutospora* Arthur & Bisby; 5 new species, *Puccinia pacifica* Blasdale, *P. irrequisita* Jackson, *P. additicia* Jackson & Holway, *Uromyces coordinatus* Arthur, *Ravenelia havanensis* Arthur, and *Lipospora tucsonensis* Arthur; and a large number of new combinations.

An imperial bureau of mycology, with Mr. E. J. Butler as director, has been established at Kew Gardens, England, for the encouragement and co-ordination of work on the diseases of plants caused by fungi in the British Overseas Dominions and Colonies. One of its functions will be to lend out to workers without good library facilities original papers on mycology and plant pathology. For this purpose reprints, pamphlets, and bulletins are more suitable than bound volumes of periodical publications, and as these are often not available for purchase, Mr. Butler would be grateful to authors who have pamphlets or reprints to spare, if they would present one or two copies so that their work may be readily brought to the notice of isolated workers in the outlying parts of the British Empire.

A very beautifully illustrated paper by F. R. Jones and C. Drechsler on crownwart of alfalfa, caused by *Urophlyctis Alfalfae,* appeared in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for November 15, 1920. This disease has been found to have its origin in the infection of very young buds, the foliar elements of which develop into abnormalities not involving the mature structures of root or stem. Infection appears to take place only early in the spring, becoming easily discoverable in the latter part of March or in early April in northern California. The abundant development of the disease in the regions where it now occurs is apparently associated with excessive moisture during the period when infection is taking place. Any measures which can be taken to reduce the moisture near the surface of the soil at this time should reduce the disease.

Fusarium oxysporum nicotianae is the name proposed by Johnson in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for January 3, 1921, for a wilt disease of tobacco found in Maryland and Ohio. The conditions favoring infection with the tobacco-wilt organism are heavy soil infestation, wounded host tissue, a relatively high soil temperature (28° to 31° C.), and a susceptible variety. The White Burley is most susceptible, and the Havana Seed and Cuban varities are among the most resistant. Where the disease threatens to become serious, growers are advised not to grow tobacco on the infested soils and to avoid the danger of infested seed beds. The most hopeful means of control appears to lie in the development of strains resistant to the disease within the various susceptible varieties.

An underground gasteromycete, apparently a species of *Hysterangium,* was brought to me about the middle of February by Mr. L. Robba, who collected it with a trained truffle dog under an oak tree near White Plains, New York. The soil was not frozen hard, because of the mild weather and a layer of two or three inches of leaves, but the tiny "puffballs" were frozen and made very poor specimens when dried. The spores were rather rough, ovoid, and distinctly umber-brown under a microscope. Mr. Robba naturally thought they were truffles, but he did not notice any odor and he recalled that his dog was not particularly "interested" in the find, only scratching a little to mark the spot and then walking away. The plants were unearthed by scraping off the covering of leaves and digging about two inches into the soil. There must have been *some* odor present, otherwise the dog would not have been attracted.

What we need here in the East is an army of enthusiasts like Mr. Parks, who would take long journeys with rake and hoe and explore for underground "puffballs." A few trained truffle dogs would also be invaluable. This is a matter for mycological and botanical clubs to consider. The autumn is the best season for such work.

Mr. H. E. Parks, of San Jose, California, has been collecting a great many underground fungi during the past few years, and I have asked him to prepare a brief account of his recent work for MYCOLOGIA. During the season of 1917–1918, he reported a number of specimens from the Santa Cruz Mountains generically determined, as well as the following species: *Gautieria morchelliformis,* buried two inches in an old road-bed; *Genea Harknessii,* on the surface of clay soil under pines; *Genea Gardnerii,* under deep leaf-humus; *Pseudobaldamia magnata,* buried deep in wet soil in jungle; *Tuber candidum,* in loose soil under oak; *Elasmomyces russuloides,* under deep leaf-humus; and *Geopora Harknessii,* on the surface of clay soil under pines.

In January of the present year, he collected under a single isolated oak (*Q. agrifolia*), in an area about ten feet square, 7 genera and 11 species of hypogaeous fungi. The genera were:

Melanogaster, Hysterangium, Elasmomyces, Hydnangium, Hymenogaster, Genea, and *Tuber.* The determined species were *E. russuloides, G. Gardnerii,* and *T. californicum.*

In February, Mr. Parks sent me specimens of the following boletes: *Ceriomyces flaviporus, C. tomentipes, C. viscidus, C. communis, C. subtomentosus,* and *Suillellus Eastwoodiae.* In the same package was a new *Poria,* which I have named in his honor.